

Anura, Microhylidae, *Elachistocleis bicolor* (Valenciennes, 1838): Distribution extension in the province of Córdoba, Argentina

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ABSTRACT: *Elachistocleis bicolor* is distributed in Argentina in the Chaco, Espinal, and Pampa ecoregions. Previous records in Córdoba, Argentina were restricted to the east of the province. Here we present a new record of *E. bicolor* for Córdoba in Reserva Natural San Martín (31°21' S, 64°15' W), about 150 km NW of the nearest record.

Elachistocleis bicolor (“ranita hocicuda”, “two-colored oval frog”) is a small frog (SVL: 22-40 mm) with an oval body and a small triangular head. Dorsum is dark brown to yellowish. Belly is yellow, with a black throat in males (De la Riva *et al.* 1996; 2000, Rodrigues *et al.* 2003). This nocturnal frog feeds mainly on ants and inhabits temporary ponds with grasses, hiding under logs and rocks (Gallardo and Olmedo 1992, López 2003, Berazategui *et al.* 2007, Lopez *et al.* 2007, Cossovich *et al.* 2011). Its reproduction is explosive (Wells 1977), extending from November to March in coincidence with heavy rains (De la Riva *et al.* 1996, Rodrigues *et al.* 2003).

Known distribution of *E. bicolor* extends from south-eastern Bolivia, southern Paraguay, northeastern Argentina, southeastern Brazil and Uruguay. In Argentina, its distribution includes the provinces of Salta, Formosa, Chaco, Misiones, Corrientes, Entre Ríos, Santa Fe, South of Buenos Aires and center of Córdoba (Gallego and Gimenez 1998). In Córdoba it was recorded in Villa María (32°25' S, 63°15' W) and Alto Alegre (32°22' S, 62°53' W) (Gallego and Gimenez 1998) (Figure 1).

This new record extends the distribution of *E. bicolor* to northwestern of Córdoba city, in Reserva Natural San Martín (31°21'00" S, 64°15'00" W). The frog was captured using drift fence-pitfall traps. Individuals were present only in grassland areas generated by recurrent fires in the Chaco-Espinal ecotone inside the reserve. These grasslands, mainly of the genus *Stipa* and *Setaria*, are characterized by a lack of trees and a low density of shrubs. Along with *E. bicolor* we captured some individuals of *Physalaemus biligonigerus*, *Leptodactylus mystacinus* and *Rhinella arenarum*.

This is the westernmost record of this frog in Córdoba, 150 km from the nearest record in the province. The specimen is deposited at the herpetology section of Centro de Zoología Aplicada (Facultad de Ciencias Exactas, Físicas y Naturales, Universidad Nacional de Córdoba), Córdoba, Argentina, under the code CZAa 243.

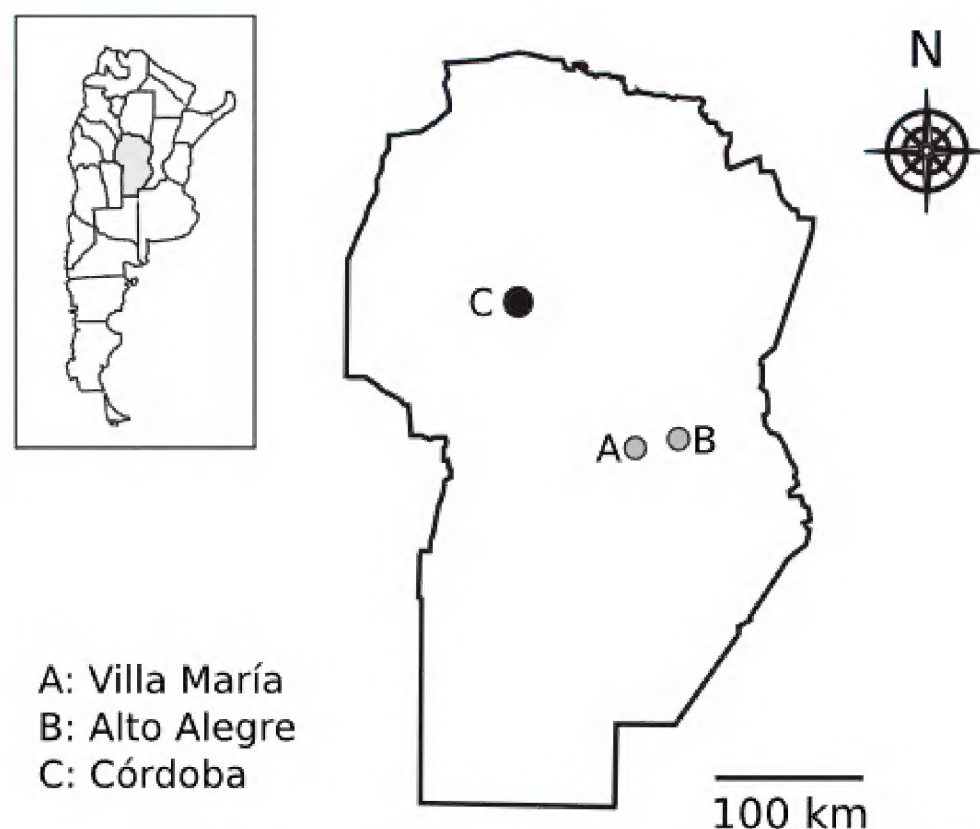


FIGURE 1. Records of *Elachistocleis bicolor* for the province of Córdoba, Argentina. A: Villa María (Gallego and Gimenez 1998), B: Alto Alegre (Gallego and Gimenez 1998), C: Córdoba city (this work).

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